



Town of North Andover

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager

July 2007
Issue 4

Regionalization of Municipal Services
Frequently the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager are approached with some version of this question: "Can't the town save money or become more efficient by joining with other communities to provide services or share equipment?" Another phrase that is used in this context is the "regionalization of services". While at first blush one would think that the New England traits of independence and self reliance would work against such cooperation between cities and towns, the reality is much different. North Andover, like many other communities in Massachusetts, has found that given our common financial constraints, we must work together with our neighbors to become more efficient and effective in our service delivery. Some current examples of this regional approach to service delivery include:

- A variety of mutual aid agreements exist between North Andover and our neighboring cities and towns to provide police, fire and ambulance services when circumstances require more resources than an individual community can muster. A situation where this may arise is a large fire where emergency units from surrounding municipalities respond to assist in putting out the fire or providing back up.

- The Town has entered into compacts with other communities to provide specialized services that a community could not

economically support on its own. One such compact is the Police Department's participation in the North East Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council to provide for SWAT team responses and crime scene analysis.

- The Fire Department's membership in the District Six Hazmat Team provides for regional hazardous material response capability.

- North Andover participates in the Northeast Mass. Mosquito and Wetlands Management District, a regional organization that provides technical and scientific resources to address health related mosquito issues.

- Under the auspices of the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative Cooperative Purchasing Program and other similar joint purchasing arrangements, North Andover and other communities participate in bulk purchases of electricity, natural gas, road salt, paper products, police cruisers and many other items to maximize economies of scale.

- Recognizing that disasters, both natural and man made, do not respect political boundaries, North Andover is a participant in the North East Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council to provide for regional response planning to these types of incidents. Similarly, the Board of Health is a member of the Greater River Valley Medical Reserves Corp which was created to

address region wide health concerns such as a flu pandemic.

- Our community is an active member of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission which is currently undertaking studies of the Rt114 and I 495 transportation corridors. Regional planning efforts such as these recognize that what one town does in its community can have a significant impact on its neighbors particularly in the areas of traffic and the environment.

Can municipalities in Massachusetts, including our own, do more to foster this environment of cooperation and assistance between each other? The answer is a resounding yes. However, it takes time, energy and determination to overcome what some view as an inherent parochialism that resides in each of our communities. This one obstacle doesn't negate the benefit to be realized from taking the initiative.

During the next few years initiatives under study include regional emergency dispatching and sharing of public works equipment. As the above examples have shown, the benefits of joining together with our fellow cities and town to work cooperatively on matters of mutual concern far exceed any perceived drawbacks. Working together makes good sense, increases efficiencies and improves and expands collaboration. As all decisions ultimately come down to economic and financial implications, we can no longer afford not to work together.

News from the Public Works - Old Center / Common Area Reconstruction

We are well on the way to a spectacular Old Center District that all residents will be proud of. The project includes new roads and crosswalks, granite curbstones, concrete sidewalks, period streetlights, period traffic controls, landscaping and the elimination of all overhead wires and utility poles.

All of the road drainage is now in place except for a segment along Osgood St. from Mass Ave to Andover St. This work entailed the digging of trenches and installation of concrete pipes and structures such as manholes and catch basins.

The paving has been removed and a base course of asphalt installed in all of Andover St. as well as in Osgood St. from Bay State Road to Mass. Ave. This work entails the removal of the existing pavement and the soil base underneath, replacing it with new base material and approximately 8" of asphalt paving. Mass Avenue, from Osgood to Andover St., will be done in June and July. The rest of Osgood St. from Mass Ave. to Andover St. will be in August, and

Salem, Johnson and Milk Sts. are scheduled for August-September time frame.

Granite curbing and concrete sidewalks are in place in Osgood St. from Bay State Road to Mass Ave. Curbing is installed along Andover St. and sidewalks will follow in the end of June. The curb and sidewalk work will follow along behind the pavement replace-



ment as the various sections of roadway get rebuilt. Traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Mass Ave. and Osgood St. some time in the fall.

The town was also a recipient of a community preservation grant in the amount of \$330,000.00. This money will be used for design and construction of drainage improvements and ancillary work on the interior of the common. Design work has been started and it is anticipated to have the contract awarded before the end of the year.

Although aggravating now, we trust the finished product will make it all worthwhile and we want to thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation. For information check the weekly update posted on the town's website or contact: Asst. Town Manager Ray Santilli at 978-688-9516, Town Engineer Gene Willis at 978-685-0950. The link to the Mass Highway website and this project is www.mhd.state.ma.us//ProjectInfo/

News from the Community Development Division—Health Department

The North Andover Health Department would like you to know what you can do to prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of influenza pandemic on you and your family. This checklist will help you gather the information and resources you may need in case of a flu pandemic.

1. To plan for a pandemic:

- Store a two week supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. This can be useful in other types of emergencies, such as power outages and disasters.
- Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.
- Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines,

fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.

- Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.

- Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.

- Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

2. To limit the spread of germs and prevent infection:

- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the correct behavior.

- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model the behavior.

- Teach your children to stay away from other as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if sick.

3. Items to have on hand for an extended stay at home:

Food and non-perishables

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruit, vegetables, beans, and soups., protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola, peanut butter or nuts, dried fruit, crackers, canned juices, bottled water, canned or jarred baby food and formula, pet food, and other non-perishable items

Medical, health, and emergency supplies

- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood-pressure monitoring equipment, soap and water, or alcohol-based (60-90%) hand wash, medicines for fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, thermometer, anti-diarrheal medication, vitamins, fluids with electrolytes, cleansing agent/soap, flashlight, batteries, portable radio, manual can opener, garbage bag, tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers

For more information, please call the North Andover Health Department at 978-688-9540.

News from the North Andover Youth Services—Summer Fun in North Andover

Summer in North Andover is always a great time of year and it would not be complete without activities for the towns' young people. The Youth Services Department is once again offering a wide array of activities for all kids. The popular Summer Fun playground program will offer six weeks of fun for over 600 elementary aged youth and the Joseph Walsh Summer League will provide basketball for 300 boys and girls from grades six through high school. The hidden jewel of North Andover, Stevens Pond, will open June 20th for eight weeks. In September this year, we will begin renovations at the

pond and in summer 2008 we will unveil the new Stevens Pond. Youth Services will also be offering entertaining children's shows in

the Blaisdell Center at the Middle School on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. from July 10th through August 23rd.

Aside from the already mentioned programs, there will be field trips to baseball games, Canobie Lake Park and Water Country. The Spendeeds program will offer community service projects for High school aged youth and for those with different tastes we will be offering cooking bam, skateboard programs, adventure activities, flag football, Scarlet Knights Sports Academy and the Girls Only program.

The Youth Center will be a hub activity this summer, come on down and see all the smiling faces.



News from the Police Department—Summer Safety

As more and more people are using more fuel-efficient methods of travel the Police Department would like to publicize some information about motorized scooters and motorized bicycles. Motorized bicycles, or mopeds, are defined by the Registry of Motor Vehicles as a bicycle that has a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters and cannot attain a speed over 30 mph. It may or may not have pedals. It needs to be registered with RMV. Licensed operators may carry a passenger.

Motorized scooters are defined as a two or three-wheeled device designed to be

stood or sat upon. They may be electric or gas powered and do not need to be registered. They may not be operated over 20 mph. No passengers are ever allowed.

Approved helmets must be worn on both the scooter and moped and operators of both must have either a learner's permit or regular driver's license. All traffic laws must be obeyed except that operators must keep to the right and may pass other vehicles on the right.

Motorcycles, regardless of size, are of a completely different category and a special motorcycle license is required. Please check the RMV website for more informa-

tion on all of these products there is a link to it from our site at www.napd.us

When driving your car please be on the lookout for bicycles, mopeds, scooters and motorcycles. They can be difficult to distinguish from the background and it is challenging to judge their speed. Serious accidents can result from turning left in front of them, as was the case recently on Mass. Ave. when a young man tragically lost his life when his motorcycle crashed into the side of a turning vehicle.

Please give them plenty of space and time to stop!